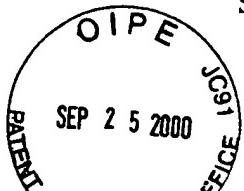


GP 3682



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September 25, 2000

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Group Art Unit: 3682
Examiner: D. Depumpo

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
 Appl. No. 09/474,127; Filed: December 29, 1999
 For: **Axle Driving Apparatus**
 Inventors: Okada *et al.*
 Our Ref: 0666.023000E/TGD/ALF

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Reply to Restriction and Election of Species Requirements;
2. Second Supplemental Preliminary Amendment; and
3. One return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

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Commissioner for Patents
September 25, 2000
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,831

Enclosures

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
Okada *et al.*
Appl. No. 09/474,127
Filed: December 29, 1999
For: **Axle Driving Apparatus**

Art Unit: 3682
Examiner: D. Depumpo
Atty. Docket: 0666.023000E/TGD/ALF

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated August 23, 2000, requesting an election of one invention to prosecute in the above-referenced patent application, Applicants hereby provisionally elect to prosecute the invention of Group I, represented by claim 7. This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed. This election is made without traverse.

In reply to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Species A of the check valve arrangement, represented by Figs. 1-6, and Species 3 of the center section, represented by Figs. 14-16. This election is made without traverse. Claims 7-12 all read on the elected species and are also generic claims.

Applicants are filing herewith a Second Supplemental Preliminary Amendment canceling claims 8-12 and adding new claim 13. New claim 13 depends from independent claim 7. New claim 13 corresponds to the elected invention and reads on the elected species.

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It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,831

Date: September 25, 2000

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